

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179020
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:MDION:NR
APPROVED BY USOAS:REWHITE
ARA - AMB. TODMAN
ARA/AND - A. FULLER
D/HA - MR. SCHNEIDER
ARA/PAN - M. BELL
ARA/L - FARMSTRONG

-----015459 301056Z /21

R 300111Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, OAS

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF SAN JOSE CONVENTION

1. AMBASSADOR OF PERU TODAY SIGNED AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, "PACT OF SAN JOSE," ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT IN OAS CEREMONY WHICH AMBASSADORS TODMAN AND MCGEE ATTENDED. PERU'S ACTION BRINGS TO 14 NUMBER OF OAS MEMBER STATES THAT HAVE SIGNED (PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNED FOR THE US ON JUNE 1); NUMBER OF RATIFICATIONS HAS NOW REACHED THREE (COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA) OF ELEVEN REQUIRED TO BRING PACT OF SAN JOSE INTO FORCE. US HAS BEGUN PROCESS OF RATIFICATION AND EXPECTS TO SEE SENATE HEARINGS COMMENCE IN NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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2. ACTION REQUESTED: GOVERNMENTS OF ECUADOR AND PANAMA, ALREADY SIGNATORIES OF SAN JOSE CONVENTION, BOTH TOOK STRONG STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT GRENADA OASGA. BOTH VOTED IN FAVOR OF SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR FURTHER STEPS TO MULTILATERALIZE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE INTER-AMERICAN FRAMEWORK. WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE EACH OF THESE GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE STEPS

TOWARD EARLY RATIFICATION OF THE PACT OF SAN JOSE AS
ANOTHER EARNEST OF ITS FIRM AND PUBLIC

COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING HIGHER STANDARDS OF JUSTICE AND
AS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD COLLECTIVE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
THROUGH WORK OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION. RATIFICATION OF SAN JOSE CONVENTION BY
REQUISITE NUMBER OF STATES WILL BRING NEW MULTILATERAL
MACHINERY TO BEAR ON THIS SERIOUS ISSUE AND ENHANCE
PRESTIGE OF THE OAS AS REGIONAL ORGANIZATION WORKING TO
RAISE STANDARDS OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AMONG ITS
MEMBERSHIP. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS AMBASSADORS TO USE NEXT
AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE RATIFICATION OF SAN JOSE
PACT WITH HIGHEST LEVEL OF HOST GOVERNMENT, STRESSING
NEW SUPPORT DEMONSTRATED BY RECENT SIGNATURES OF US AND
PERU PLUS RATIFICATION BY VENEZUELA AS EVIDENCE OF
GROWING RECOGNITION THAT AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS IS VIABLE INSTRUMENT FOR PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THIS HEMISPHERE. VANCE

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